

Application No.: 10/618,145

Amendment dated: October 24, 2005

Reply to Office Action dated: August 22, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-2, 4-12, 14-21, and 23-29 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 11, and 20 have been amended. Claims 3, 13, and 22 have been cancelled.

Claims 1-2, 4, 7-12, 14, 16-21, 23, and 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being rendered obvious by U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0097517 to Bonin et al. (Hereinafter "Bonin") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,748,412 to Murdock et al. (Hereinafter "Murdock"). Claims 5-6, 14-15, and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being rendered obvious by Bonin in view of Murdock and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,901,014 to Hiraoka et al. (Hereinafter "Hiraoka").

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-2, 4, 7-12, 14, 16-21, 23, and 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being rendered obvious by Bonin in view of Murdock. Bonin discloses a disc drive that includes a slider with a field emission sensor that senses fly height (*See Abstract*). Murdock discloses a magnetoresistive head assembly including a magnetoresistive sensor element, detection circuitry and first and second electrical conductors electrically connecting the magnetoresistive sensor element and the detection circuitry (*See Abstract*).

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Bonin, Murdock, nor any combination thereof teach or suggest a charging electrical conductor coupled to the electrical pad to apply an

Application No.: 10/618,145

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electrical charge to the magnetic head to create an electrostatic force to adjust the flying height of the slider, as claimed in claims 1, 11, and 20 as amended. Murdock does not disclose this element, nor does the Office Action assert as such. Bonin also does not disclose this element.

Bonin states:

In FIGS. 4-6, a capacitive actuator 330 (FIG. 6) is also provided that adjusts the fly height spacing 310 as a function of a received actuator electrical input at a capacitor plate 332. Capacitor plate 332 is a mesa that is formed in the conductive body of slider 300. Slider 300 is preferably formed of doped silicon. The capacitive actuator 330 comprises the first capacitive electrode surface 332 that is disposed on the slider 300 and a facing second portion 340 of the media surface 306 that forms a second capacitive electrode. In one preferred arrangement, the first capacitive electrode surface 332 is spaced apart from the second capacitive electrode 340 by a capacitor spacing 342 that is greater than the gap spacing 316 to provide electrical feedback gain.

(Bonin, Paragraph 40).

In Bonin, the slider 332 is charged, not the magnetic head 308. Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that elements of claim 1, 11 and 20 are neither shown nor suggested by the cited reference. Claims 2, 4, 7-10, 12, 14, 16-19, 21, 23, and 26-29 depend from claims 1, 11 and 20. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-2, 4, 7-12, 14, 16-21, 23, and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-6, 14-15, and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being rendered obvious by Bonin in view of Murdock and in further view of Hiraoka. Hiraoka discloses a magnetic head assembly includes a slider on which a magnetic head is mounted, a spring arm having a gimbal portion on which the slider is mounted, a wiring pattern provided on the spring

Application No.: 10/618,145

Amendment dated: October 24, 2005

Reply to Office Action dated: August 22, 2005

arm and electrically connected to the magnetic head, and an insulating member provided between the slider and the gimbal portion of the spring arm (*See Abstract*).

As stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Bonin, Murdock, Hiraoka, nor any combination thereof teach or suggest a charging electrical conductor coupled to the electrical pad to apply an electrical charge to the magnetic head to create an electrostatic force to adjust the flying height of the slider, as claimed in claims 1, 11, and 20 as amended. Hiraoka does not cure the deficiencies of Bonin and Murdock, nor does the Office Action claims that this is the case. Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that elements of claim 1, 11 and 20 are neither shown nor suggested by the cited reference. Claims 5-6, 14-15, and 24-25 depend from claims 1, 11 and 20. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5-6, 14-15, and 24-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Request for Allowance

It is believed that this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance, and early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Application No.: 10/618,145
Amendment dated: October 24, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated: August 22, 2005

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayments, to
Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,
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